

What is Claimed Is:

1. A one-time programming memory element capable of being manufactured in a  $0.13\mu\text{m}$  or below CMOS technology, comprising:
  - a capacitor having an oxide layer capable of passing direct gate tunneling current;
  - a write circuit, including
    - a first switch coupled to said capacitor, and
    - a second switch coupled to said capacitor; and
    - a read circuit coupled to said capacitor,
  - wherein said capacitor is one-time programmable as an anti-fuse by application of a program voltage across said oxide layer via said write circuit to cause direct gate tunneling current to rupture said oxide layer to form a conductive path having resistance of approximately hundreds of ohms or less.
2. The one-time programming memory element of claim 1, wherein said write circuit comprises:
  - a first switch transistor connected between a first terminal of said capacitor and a first voltage; and
  - a second switch transistor connected between a second terminal of said capacitor opposing said first terminal and a second voltage.
3. The one-time programming memory element of claim 2, wherein each of said first and second switch transistors has an oxide layer thicker than said capacitor oxide layer.
4. The one-time programming memory element of claim 2, wherein said program voltage is equal to a difference between said first and second voltages.
5. The one-time programming memory element of claim 2, wherein said read circuit comprises plural read switch transistors coupled to said capacitor.

6. The one-time programming memory element of claim 5, wherein:
  - when said first and second switch transistors are closed and said read switch transistors are open, one-time programming occurs; and
  - when said read switch transistors are closed and said first and second switch transistors are open, reading occurs.
7. The one-time programming memory element of claim 1, wherein said capacitor oxide layer is approximately 20Å thick.
8. The one-time programming memory element according to claim 1, further comprising a sensing circuit to sense whether said capacitor is programmed.
9. The one-time programming memory element according to claim 1, wherein a charge pump is not required to program said anti-fuse.
10. The one-time programming element of claim 1, wherein said program voltage applied across said capacitor oxide layer is less than 7 volts.
11. The one-time programming memory element of claim 1, wherein when said first and second switches are closed one-time programming occurs.
12. The one-time programming memory element according to claim 1, wherein said capacitor comprises a field effect transistor having source and drain regions coupled together and to said first switch, a gate coupled to said second switch and a gate dielectric forming said oxide layer.
13. The one-time programming memory element according to claim 12, wherein said field effect transistor has a deep N-well design including:
  - a P-well layer adjacent the source and drain regions;
  - a deep N-well layer below the P-well layer; and
  - a P-type substrate below the deep N-well layer.

14. The one-time programming memory element according to claim 1, wherein said write circuit comprises a 5-volt tolerant switch of which said first switch and said second switch are each 2.5-volt transistors with gate oxide layers that are thicker than said capacitor oxide layer, and wherein said program voltage across said capacitor oxide layer is less than 7 volts.
15. A process, compatible with  $0.13\mu\text{m}$  or below CMOS technology, for making a one-time programming memory element, comprising the steps of:
  - forming a capacitor having an oxide layer capable of passing direct gate tunneling current;
  - forming a write circuit, including the steps of
    - forming a first switch coupled to said capacitor, and
    - forming a second switch coupled to said capacitor; and
  - forming a read circuit coupled to the capacitor,wherein the capacitor is one-time programmable as an anti-fuse by application of a program voltage across the oxide layer via the write circuit to cause direct gate tunneling current to rupture the oxide layer to form a conductive path having resistance of approximately hundreds of ohms or less.
16. The process of claim 15, wherein said forming a first switch comprises the step of forming a first switch transistor connected between a first terminal of the capacitor and a first voltage.
17. The process of claim 16, wherein the forming a second switch comprises the step of forming a second switch transistor connected between a second terminal of the capacitor opposing the first terminal and a second voltage.
18. The process of claim 17, wherein each of the first and second switch transistors are formed with an oxide layer thicker than the capacitor oxide layer.

19. The process of claim 15, wherein said forming a read circuit step comprises the step of forming plural read switch transistors coupled to the capacitor.

20. The process of claim 15, wherein said forming a capacitor step comprises the step of forming the capacitor oxide layer with a thickness of approximately 20Å.

21. The process of claim 15, further comprising the step of forming a sensing circuit to sense whether the capacitor is programmed.

22. The process of claim 15, wherein said forming a capacitor step comprises the step of forming a field effect transistor having source and drain regions coupled together and to the first switch, a gate coupled to the second switch and a gate dielectric forming the oxide layer.

23. The process of claim 22, wherein said forming a field effect transistor step comprises the steps of:

forming a P-well layer adjacent the source and drain regions;  
forming a deep N-well layer below the P-well layer; and  
forming a P-type substrate below the deep N-well layer.

24. The process of claim 15, wherein said forming a write circuit comprises the step of forming a 5-volt tolerant switch of which the first switch and the second switch are each 2.5-volt transistors with gate oxide layers that are thicker than the capacitor oxide layer, and wherein said program voltage across the capacitor oxide layer is less than 7 volts.